

APPENDIX 2.

List of Journals and News papers subscribed
by the Secretariat.

No.	Name of Journal or periodical.	No. of Re- copies. marks.
1	The Hindu	2
2	The Mail	3
3	The New India	1
4	The Justice	1
5	The Malabar Herald	2
6	The Malabar Gazette	1
7	The Ceylon Tropical Agriculturist	1
8	The Western Star	1
9	The Cochin Argus	2
10	The Indian Forester	1
11	The Mysore Economic Journal	1
12	The Trivandrum Standard	2
13	The Kerala Patrika	1
14	The Mitavadi	1
15	The Feudatory and Zemindari India	3
16	The Indian Social Reformer	1
17	The Indian Engineering	1
18	The Gazette of India	1
19	The Journal of Ayurveda	1
20	The Social Service League	1
21	The Local Self-Government Gazette	1
22	The Indian Industries and Power	1
23	The Indian and Eastern Engineer	1
24	The Lakshmi Bhai	1
25	The Purana Sanchika Series	13 Vols.
26	The Jaiminiyaswamedham	5
27	The Mahabhagavatham and its Nikhandu	2
28	The Al-Ameen	1

Voting of Demands for Grants—*cont.*

DEMAND II—Agriculture and Panchayats

—2.24 lakhs.—

President.—The next item of business is the consideration of the motions connected with the voting of the demands for grants. Yesterday, we finished the first item under Demand II, Agriculture and Panchayats. We have now to proceed to the second item, "Maintenance of Gardens."

Motion No. 9.

Mr. M. K. RAMAN (*Ezhuva South*).

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 21,874 for Maintenance of Gardens by Rs. 13,975.

Mr. C. ACHYUTA MENON (*Mulakunnattukaru*).

On a point of order, Sir. Most of these gardens, for which allotments are provided, are attached to Palaces. Except two—the Guest House Gardens and the Krishna Vilas Gardens—all the others are Palace Gardens.

President—Is it given in italics or shown in any other way as non-votable? May I know, Mr. Raman Menon, whether these are the gardens contemplated in 'Maintenance of Gardens', or whether these are other gardens?

Mr. I. RAMAN MENON (*Superintendent of Agriculture and Panchayats*).

It was by a mistake that it was not put in italics.

Mr. M. K. RAMAN (*Ezhuva South*).

We need not perpetuate mistakes.

Mr. A. B. SALEM (*Jews*).

If there are mistakes, Government does not say so. I say, what we want is larger freedom to discuss as many items as possible; and therefore I ask whether it is open to a non-official member to point out that it is a mistake, particularly, when the Government does not own their mistakes.

President.—Mr. Raman Menon, have you got separate figures for each of the gardens?

Mr. I. RAMAN MENON (*Superintendent of Agriculture and Panchayats*).

Yes, Sir. I shall give them. The gardens are Tullocks Gardens in Madras, the Residency Gardens, Trichur, the Krishna Vilas Gardens, Ernakulam, the Trichur Guest House Gardens, the Guest House Gardens, Ernakulam, the Palace Gardens, Trippunitura, etc.

President.—Altogether eight?

Mr. I. RAMAN MENON (*Superintendent of Agriculture and Panchayats*).

Altogether eight. There are two Gardens in Coonoor.

President.—And the allotment is now in connection with all these gardens?

Mr. I. RAMAN MENON (*Superintendent of Agriculture and Panchayats*).

I think that these Palace Gardens proper are all of the Palace, properly so called, and they are non-votable.

Mr. M. K. RAMAN (*Ezhuva South*).

For the other gardens alone we must take the figures separately.

Mr. I. RAMAN MENON (*Superintendent of Agriculture and Panchayats*).

Krishna Vilas Garden	..	Rs 400
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Guest House Garden, Ernakulam..	Rs. 60
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Trichur Guest House Garden	Rs. 60
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This expenditure is over and above the establishment charges for maintaining these gardens.

President.—The general establishments in connection with the supervision of all these gardens?

Mr. I. RAMAN MENON (*Superintendent of Agriculture and Panchayats*).

Yes, Sir.

President.—That is how the matter stands. That amount alone is votable.

Mr. A. B. SALEM (*Jews*).

May I know, Sir, whether the ruling was as President or as Diwan?

President.—As Diwan. I suppose I have another capacity as Diwan. In fact, I should decide in the capacity of the Diwan, under Section 16 of the Regulation. Mr. Raman, do you press your motion?

Mr. M. K. RAMAN (*Ezhuva South*).

Sir, as the votable amount is so small, I beg to withdraw my motion, if the Council permits.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

President.—The next item is the motion on the Coconut Station.

Motions 10 and 11.

Mr. A. B. SALEM (*Jews*).

To omit the allotment of Rs. 4,034 for the Coconut Station.

Mr. M. K. RAMAN (*Ezhuva South*).

To omit the allotment of Rs. 4,034 for the Cocoanut Station.

Mr. A. B. SALEM (*Jews.*)

Sir,

I tabled this motion for the omission of the allotment of Rs. 4,034 for the Cocoanut Station for more reasons than one. In the first place, it has been made abundantly clear to this House during the budget discussion that there is very little to learn in the cultivation of the cocoanut-palm from outside knowledge acquired in other countries, that that knowledge exists abundantly here, and that there is not much to impart in that direction. There may be here and there some names or some new scientific experiments for the student. But this can have only an academic interest and no practical interest, because the science here has not developed in any practical direction, and, after 10 years of experience and the scientific researches of the department, no tangible result has been brought about for the use of the ryots.

Sir, I take it that an Agricultural Department exists for the diffusion of knowledge, and, therefore, we have been willing here, in this House, in spite of criticisms, to allow the department to continue to exist for some time more and carry out its experiments so as to allow it to demonstrate its usefulness. But, Sir, for agriculture—the mainstay of the population in Cochin—to be profited, the improvements introduced and the knowledge gained in the Laboratory and in the Experimental Station should be brought and diffused widely amidst the ryots. That, Sir, is the method that has been followed in countries that have self-government or national government as in America, Japan and Germany. There, the Agricultural Department exists, not for the sake of merely finding out things, but for solving difficulties that have been brought to their notice by the various cultivators and ryots, who experienced the difficulties in their farms, and who refer themselves to the Agricultural Departments of those countries to solve these difficulties in a scientific manner. The knowledge gained by science must be made to apply to the art of agriculture.

Sir, the other day, a very eminent article appeared in some of the papers regarding agriculture, where it was said that one part of the agriculture of a country depends upon the cattle of the land. Here, Sir, I have not been able to hear a single word uttered either from the non-official benches, or from the Agricultural Department about the general condition of the cattle of the country. I have perused the Reports of five years' Administration of Cochin to see whether the Agricultural Department at any time had their attention drawn to the condition of the cattle. No doubt, we have a cattle-breeding farm, but that is not what I sought for. The information I sought for was regarding the condition of the cattle here. Sir, any one going along the Cochin Railway can see the emaciated condition of the miserable cattle straying on the line and in the fields beyond. The bovine animal life of Cochin is indeed very poor and miserable, and in spite of the stock bred, I still find that the condition of the cattle has not at all improved. I wish to know, whether the Agricultural Department has directed their attention to the condition of the cattle, to the number of cattle that is required, both for power and milk. These are the only two prime necessities for cattle here. Very little meat from the bovine kingdom is required here in Cochin. Cattle are required for the tilling of ground, to carry the plough and to help the ryot. The bovine animal is required for giving us milk, for our children, patients and for our adults as well.

President.—But, may I ask the member what he has to do with cattle, when speaking about the Coconut Station?

Mr. A. B. SALEM (*Jews*).

In the Coconut Station also, we want manure.

RAO SAHIB T. V. KASTURI RANGA AYYAR (*Diwan Peishkar*).

These are all points for general discussion.

President.—You will please confine your remarks to the Vyttila Station alone.

Mr. A. B. SALEM (*Jews*).

Then, I shall not digress (*Laughter*.) but come direct to the Vyttila Station.

It is ten years since the department started, and Vyttila is on the mainland and not on the sea-shore. We have heard from the lips of the Hon'ble Member for Cranganur that the belt of land lying between the sea on one side and the back-water on the other is the ideal portion of the country for the cocoanut-palm. A farm that should be useful for the cocoanut cultivator should exist somewhere there, and it will not be a proper thing to put the Cocoanut Farm at Vyttila, an out-of-the-way place on the way to Trippunittura, and not a very suitable locality for the plantation of cocoanuts.

President.—There is a back-water at Vyttila.

Mr. A. B. SALEM (*Jews*).

Yes, Sir. I know there is a little back-water there. But the main cultivation of cocoanuts lies, as it does, in the belt of the land there (*pointing to the Cochin side*). The first objection to the Vyttila Farm is that the location is not an ideal one, and is, in my opinion and in the opinion of some of the members that have expressed themselves here during the general discussion, not at all a place for carrying on these experiments. These experiments should have been carried on where cocoanuts are cultivated largely and mainly, and the cultivation of the palm by the department should be in a place from which knowledge of the cocoanut-palm can diffuse itself in the country.

Sir, I say that, with Rs. 83,000 spent upon the Cocoanut Farm in acquiring it, and with much more spent in the previous years, the three or four thousand rupees to be spent on the administration of it in the coming year will be only a luxury and nothing more. The experiment regarding the Cocoanut Farm can be carried on very well, as far as the study of the life of the trees is concerned, in any little garden with four or five acres. I should certainly say that 25 acres of land is an unnecessary waste of land "for studying the art of cocoanut cultivation and the problems connected with it". The Hon'ble Member for Agriculture did not condescend to tell us what are the various problems connected with the cocoanuts. He simply stated in reply to the general discussion that there are many problems connected with the cocoanut-trees, and left

us still where we were before that knowledge was imparted to us. That, Sir, is another ground for saying that there are not very many problems connected with it, which require 25 acres of land for experimenting and finding them out. I, therefore, emphatically protest that this item is an absolute luxury, and whatever that can be done can be done in some of our public gardens where the cocoanut palm has also been planted. These studies can be made there, which will mean that the garden also will be profited, and this study will also go side by side without wasting the interest on Rs. 83,000 at Vyttila for capital expenditure, and about Rs. 17,000 more to bring it to the present condition with a recurring expenditure of Rs. 4,034 this year.

I submit to you, Sir, that every effort must be made to economise our expenditure here, even though we have got a balanced or surplus budget. There is no reason why we should not economise and do a thing by spending one rupee where we spend two rupees now. It is bad economy, bad thrift to spend unnecessarily public money which comes from the hard-earned income of the poor ryots and the poor people of Cochin. To spend money profusely on any experiment of such dubitable nature, I should say, shows a lack of sense of responsibility and a fondness to cling to irresponsible ideas, that have been existing here, in Cochin, for some time in the past, before the Council came into existence. Now that this Council has come as a drag upon the Diwan of Cochin in the future, I should say that the time has come when we must and can scrutinise every item of expenditure and save every pie to be spent in other useful directions. We have social legislation in view, and when they come up, unless we cut down our expenditure and possess funds, the Government will hold up their hands and say "No money for social legislation." Money is required for all such schemes of social welfare, and so, every pie must be considered, whether it be for a pin or a pen, and however small it may be. Never say, "It is only a pie that has to be spent, and one can shut one's mouth, seeing the insignificance of it". This should not be. Hence I object to this lavish expenditure on a cocoanut farm.

I think that it is an absolute luxury and an unnecessary one. I object to the location, as it is not in the neighbourhood of the cultivation of cocoanuts, and as such cultivation in a better manner for demonstration to the ryots should be in the midst of the cultivation of cocoanuts on the sea-shore. And it is not very late to do so, after disposing of this farm.

My idea has been very satisfactorily put by the member for the South Ezhuva constituency, as the knowledge regarding the better cultivation of the palm may be imparted from a little piece of land taken on lease, giving the ryot the income that he has been deriving for a particular year from it, so that he can get his income, even though he has parted with his possession. Let the Agricultural Expert show his experiments on that piece of land, and demonstrate that he could grow cocoanuts by better methods and thereby derive extra income. Public money may thus be utilised for a useful purpose, for the diffusion of knowledge to the ryots, and it will also have the effect of the ryots copying the art of the expert without any persuasion whatsoever. The property, together with the improvements, can be transferred to the owner by the Agricultural Department after experiments and demonstration, realising its cost, or even free. That sort of itinerant diffusion of knowledge is what I referred to in my contribution to the discussion upon the general budget. That sort of garden, spread in every village on the coast-land there (*pointing to Cochin*), would be far more useful than looking to the Farm at Vyttila and concentrating your attention there, especially as the ryots, either by not caring for, or from poverty, disinclination, or from sheer dogged ignorance, cannot profit by visiting and studying at the Farm, for which object it now exists. All these years we should have expected these things to spring up everywhere, but that is not the case to-day. What we are doing to-day is what a professor, bottled in some University, does in carrying on some experiments day and night without reference to result, without reference to time and without reference to energy. That is not what is wanted in agriculture. A diffusion of knowledge at the very doors of the ryots is a prime necessity, and Sir, therefore it is that I press this motion for doing away with the Farm at Vyttila.

President.—There is a motion by Mr. M. K. Raman on the same subject. You will take part in the debate?

Mr. M. K. RAMAN (*Ezuvva South*).

Yes, Sir.

Mr. T. A. RAMACHANDRA AYYAR (*Nellayi*).

Sir,

In rising to support the motion of the Hon'ble Member of the Jewish constituency, I wish to make my position clear, so that I may not be again misunderstood, as I was unfortunately done, yesterday, by no less a person than the Diwan Peishkar. I did not for a moment say that Government should not take up agricultural development. I did not say that the amount now asked for agricultural development was in any way too high. I only said, and repeatedly said, that the huge amount is being spent in the wrong way. I may be pardoned, if I use a stronger expression, and say that the amount now spent is only a waste. I only condemned the present system of spending the money allotted for agricultural purposes.

When I oppose the motion for the grant of Rs. 4,030 for the Cocoanut Station, I do not want to be misunderstood to say that I am against the development of cocoanut cultivation. I am against spending or wasting Rs. 4,030 for the specific cocoanut garden referred to in the budget. I am quite willing to vote for an expenditure of Rs. 4,000 or even double the amount for the improvement of cocoanut cultivation in the State. But I maintain that the way for such improvement does not lie in maintaining a model cocoanut farm. I am not viewing the question from the point of rupees annas, pies, though there is no reason why any question should not be considered from that point also, without frustrating the principle object.

If the Superintendent cannot maintain a self-maintaining cocoanut farm, I wonder how it is going to be an object lesson to the public.

The amount may be better utilised in any of the following ways. The Superintendent happens to be in charge of avenues. Two or three cocoanut-trees can be planted here and there throughout the State along

with other avenue trees, and if the Superintendent by his improved method of cultivation makes those trees bear three fruits in place of two produced in the neighbouring place, I can guarantee that the very next moment all the cocoanut cultivators of the State will take to his improved method of cultivation. These model trees will speak much more eloquently than this cocoanut garden in an insolated place.

If, for some reasons, this is not possible, he can have half a dozen trees cultivated in the different big cocoanut cultivations in the State here and there, and practically convince the owners and through them the neighbours of the advantages of the method of his cultivation. Rightly or wrongly, there is a notion that the results achieved by the so-called improved methods do not justify the expenditure; that is, the game is not worth the candle, and a model garden which is not self-maintaining will only confirm this view.

For these reasons I strongly support the motion.

President.—The Agricultural Superintendent will explain the position.

Mr. I. RAMAN MENON (*Superintendent of Agriculture and Panchayats*).

Sir,

In my reply, yesterday, to the several charges brought against the Agricultural Department, I made the position of the Cocoanut Station distinctly clear. No doubt, a sum of about Rs. 80,000 and odd was spent on the acquisition of lands, and later, we have spent a pretty good sum of money in laying it out and protecting its sides.

Mr. A. B. SALEM (*Jews*).

May we know how much, Sir?

Mr. I. RAMAN MENON (*Superintendent of Agriculture and Panchayats*).

Nearly Rs. 12,000, for putting a revetment wall adjoining the river and also for laying out and planting. The amount proposed for the next year's expenditure is to meet the recurring charges as well as for laying out nearly a fourth of the estate and for planting it up. We have thus to maintain the trees which are bearing—not more than 500. As a matter of fact,

last month nuts were plucked only from about 400 trees. There were a good many trees, as I have already stated in my reply, yesterday, which were beyond the bearing stage. These had to be cut down, and new ones had to be planted, and 630 have already been planted. The estate came into the hands of the department, nearly three years ago, and I, for myself, am not in a position to inform this House how it is possible to say anything about the plantation, which we started three years ago. We have planted 630 cocoanuts in the Cocoanut Station, and we have also about 400 bearing trees, and I am sure those people who profess to know so much about cocoanut cultivation must also be in a position to say how much they want to maintain 400 bearing trees, to plant the remaining area—about a fourth of the estate—and to maintain 630 cocoanut plants, newly planted.

Dr. A. G. MENON (*Tattamangalam*).

The cost of the recurring charges?

Mr. I. RAMAN MENON (*Superintendent of Agriculture and Panchayats*).

The cost of the renewing charges represents the cost of the establishment as well as the cost of manure, cultivation expenses and the cost of maintaining 630 plants planted just 18 months ago.

President.—How much do you expect, as against this expenditure?

Mr. I. RAMAN MENON (*Superintendent of Agriculture and Panchayats*).

We can expect a definite income only after 6 or 7 years.

President.—How much do you expect next year?

Mr. I. RAMAN MENON (*Superintendent of Agriculture and Panchayats*).

Sir, our present income is Rs. 1,700 and odd.

President.—So, the real loss that can be considered as a waste is only Rs. 2,300.

Mr. I. RAMAN MENON (*Superintendent of Agriculture and Panchayats*).

We have to maintain about 630 growing plants and to improve the estate. This cannot be called a waste.

Mr. A. B. SALEM (*Jews*).

Am I to understand that there are only 630 plants in that garden?

Mr. I. RAMAN MENON (*Superintendent of Agriculture and Panchayats*).

400 bearing cocoanuts and 630 plants which were newly planted.

Mr. A. B. SALEM (*Jews*).

May I know whether the Hon'ble Member will be able to enlighten us as to the average amount per tree he has been able to get from the Vyttila Farm?

Mr. I. RAMAN MENON (*Superintendent of Agriculture and Panchayats*).

About 4 and odd rupees.

President.—Is such a large expenditure necessary for 25 acres? Is it absolutely necessary that you should have a cocoanut station of such a large extent? Should we not be satisfied with 5 acres? The question will come to this: can we not dispose of the remaining area? That point may be explained.

Mr. I. RAMAN MENON (*Superintendent of Agriculture and Panchayats*).

In the proposal that I submitted to the Government about the Cocoanut Experimental Station in the Cochin-Kanayannur Taluk—in the final proposals I submitted—I suggested to the Government to take up a plot of land with an extent of 30 acres, somewhere near the main back-waters. There was, at the time when the proposals were being considered by the Government, another proposal for a Poor House. It was thought by the then Diwan, Mr. T. Vijayaraghava Chari that the Poor House and the Cocoanut Station might be run together, and that those people who were to be stationed in the Poor House may be asked to work in the Cocoanut Station. Of course, it is unnecessary for me to place before this House the several matters connected with the acquisition of the site, especially with regard to the correspondence.

Dr. A. G. MENON (*Tattamangalam*)

May I request the Hon'ble Member to inform the House whether the acquisition of land was made without his knowledge or his express permission?

President.—It is altogether a different plot of land that was acquired.

Dr. A. G. MENON (*Tattamangalam*).

Did he protest that the land selected was not a proper ground for the Experimental Coconut Station?

Mr. I. RAMAN MENON (*Superintendent of Agriculture and Panchayats*).

There is nothing wrong about the land. I have nothing to say against the site at all.

As regards the several problems which have to be solved, I may be allowed to inform the House that the five acres would not be enough for carrying on with the work. That is all I have to state before this House.

President.—What are the specific grounds on which you state that we cannot dispose of the remaining acres and reduce the expenditure? That is my point.

Mr. C. ACHYUTA MENON (*Mulakunnattukavu*).

In an experimental coconut plantation, there should be plants previously planted. It can be treated according to the modern methods; new plants have to be planted, according to the new methods. New varieties have to be planted. All this requires a thousand trees or more. For demonstrating these different processes, different varieties, etc., we require a large extent. According to the rate of thousand trees to 20 acres, the area is too small.

Mr. O. R. CHUMMAR (*Vellarappalli*).

May I know, Sir, the yield per year of the best coconut tree in the Station, approximately?

Mr. I. RAMAN MENON (*Superintendent of Agriculture and Panchayats*).

In the same garden, one coconut tree may yield a larger number. They are generally classified, first class, second class and third class.

President.—What is the income from the first class tree in the Vyttila Station?

Mr. I. RAMAN MENON (*Superintendent of Agriculture and Panchayats*).

I have got a register containing the number of nuts plucked from every tree. The information which the Hon'ble Member wants can be supplied.

There are two or three stations run by the Madras Agricultural Department. Those stations have got an extent of 20 and 30 acres.

President.—Thirty?

Mr. I. RAMAN MENON (*Superintendent of Agriculture and Panchayats*).

Yes, Sir, about 30. They have taken three different types of land, and one estate is practically in a sandy tract. I must state before this House that anything less than 20 or 25 acres of land is not enough. I can again say with emphasis that the extent we have now acquired is absolutely necessary.

Mr. M. KRISHNA MENON (*Vyttila*).

Sir, I may be permitted to say a few words in connection with the Vyttila Farm. I have thoroughly inspected that Farm more than once. The 25 acres of land was purchased or acquired by the Government at a cost of Rs. 80,000. The market value in the locality is about Rs. 2,500 per acre. It was acquired by the Land Revenue Department. After the land was acquired, the levelling of the plot of land was carried on by the Agricultural Department, which must have consumed a large amount.

Then, I do not agree with the Hon'ble Member for the Jewish constituency, when he says that that particular locality is unfit for cocoanut cultivation. It is like any other locality in the Cochin State. Two things wanted for cocoanut cultivation are:—(1) Sandy soil, and (2) back-water frontage. Both these things exist there, as far as my experience goes.

I think nobody in this House will grudge paying Rs. 2,500 per acre. Calculating at the rate of 60 cocoanut trees per acre, the yield comes to Rs. 3 per tree. According to the calculation of the Agricultural Superintendent, the income comes to an average of

Rs. 4 per cocoanut tree. Very few of the plantations can boast of this average income, except when trees are licensed to tap for toddy. The income was reduced as a large number of old trees were cut off, that would have yielded something, and there it is now proposed by the Agricultural Department to plant new ones.

If the Government proposes to reduce any portion of it, that portion will not fetch any value at present, as it is only waste land with the small cocoanut plants just one year or two years old.

My objection for the allotment is only the spending of this 4,000 for the yearly upkeep of the Farm. The upkeep of a Cocoanut Experimental Station, over and above the scientific manure—about which I am not in a position to say—will not cost so much. I have not found anything done by the Agricultural Department more than what is actually done by the other cocoanut cultivators in the locality.

There is an establishment there to supervise the work, which the ordinary ryot has not got. I do not think it absolutely necessary to have a costly establishment in the locality, and I will request the Agricultural Superintendent to reduce the cost of the establishment stationed at Vyttila, for the purpose of looking after the upkeep of the Farm, without at the same time incurring any loss to the department. In that case I do not for a moment think that this Cocoanut Experimental Farm will ever entail any loss to the Government, if the income out of 25 acres of land could be obtained at this rate of Rs. 4 per cocoanut tree, and if the whole thing is planted at the rate of 60 per acre. It will certainly cover $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent on the outlay of the Government. But if we spend a large amount for the upkeep till these plants begin to yield, I don't know where we would be. So I request the Agricultural Department to reduce the expenditure as much as possible.

DIWAN BAHADUR DR. V. VERGHESE (*Chief Medical and Sanitary Officer*).

Although the discussion is one unconnected with my department, I rise to oppose the motion for cut, and wish to offer a few remarks from my experience in regard to cocoanut cultivation. I would first oppose

the very idea of abolishing the Cocoanut Station. In a place like Cochin, where cocoanut cultivation is the staple agricultural work of the people, to say that a model farm is not necessary is as unreasonable as to tell a sanitarian that in a place where a large number of people live in model dwelling houses or a model cattle-shed is unnecessary. Well, it is in this place that a model cocoanut farm should exist for demonstration to the ryots what model cultivation of cocoanuts should be. I had the pleasure of visiting the model cocoanut farm in Kassergod run by the British Government. I was then struck with the mode of scientific cultivation of cocoanuts. It has an area of about 20 acres. The regular line in which the trees were planted with intervening spaces for free penetration of air and the spotless cleanliness of the ground, and all the other arrangements there struck me as worthy of imitation by the ryots. I have gone through the length and breadth of this coast-belt where cocoanut abounds and I have not found one garden so kept and tended, except the one owned by Mr. Baker, further down south in this back-water. I sat down in that farm and made enquiries of the Agricultural Inspector in charge as to details of working, cost, &c. I learned from him that the garden was paying. I have not seen this particular garden under discussion, but I am sure that this garden will in time bring 5 to 6 per cent interest, notwithstanding the costly supervision charges which exist. Further, I would say that for scientific and experimental purposes a small farm is insufficient. It is fallacious to say that for demonstration purposes an area of five or six acres is enough. I think 20 or 25 acres are necessary. That will reduce the incidence of working charges. The idea is that the Cocoanut Station should serve the scientific purposes of the department for which it exists, and at the same time should not be a drain on the State funds. Here the plants are only recently planted, and we have to wait five or six years until they begin to yield, to enquire whether it is paying or not. I do not consider that it is a luxury or unnecessary waste.

Mr. C. A. OUSEPH (*Chalakkudi*).

Sir, I propose that the question be now put.

Mr. N. PADMANABHA MENON (*Cranganur*).

Sir, I second it.

The closure motion was put to the vote and carried.

President.—Now, Mr. Salem will have the right of reply.

Mr. A. B. SALEM (*Jews*).

Sir, Just as in the days of old, a prophet called to curse, blessed, so here History repeats itself. Mr. Marayil Menon blessed me in every way possible in speaking against the cut.

Mr. M. KRISHNA MENON (*Vyttila*).

“Marayil Menon” is not my name, please.

Mr. A. B. SALEM (*Jews*).

I beg his pardon, Sir,—the Hon'ble Member for Vyttila. The objection was to the costly establishment there. No conviction has been carried to my mind by the answer given by the Hon'ble Member for Agriculture, that, as far as this Farm is concerned, he cannot do the work intended to be carried on in the Farm with any number of acres less than what he has now acquired for the purpose.

It has already been pointed out that this site has been acquired without the concurrent approval of the expert and, perhaps, in spite of it. Such being the case, Sir, the suitability of the land is still in question. Although a native of the soil, the proximity of the back-water, the nature of the soil, etc., are not known to me exactly, as I have not visited the Farm, while my learned friend for Vyttila has; but, Sir, it is abundantly clear to a layman that Azhikkode is the place where the best cocoanuts grow in the State.

Whatever be the reasons, Sir, for the Hon'ble Member for Medicine to take part in this discussion, his valuable contribution to this discussion is welcome, but, Sir, he also said that it is only for demonstration purposes that 25 acres are necessary. For scientific purposes, I say, 5 acres or even less would be sufficient. For demonstration purposes, go to the ryots, take 25 acres, take 30 acres or even 50 acres. You don't suffer. You don't sink any capital. You take it on lease. You agree and pay the man the maximum

he has been getting from it, from year to year, and you give demonstrations for the benefit and use of the ryots. Scientific cultivation, I say, does not require such a large acreage, and the maintenance charges here is also too much, and it is not the scientific method of cultivation at Kassergod that has to be shown.

I would show the Hon'ble Member for Medicine, if he comes with me, three or four ordinary *topes*, managed by Europeans without any expert, yielding beautifully and standing in rows of straight lines, where money has been spent and where labour has been spent under supervision. There has been, in the planting of trees in such places, a general discipline, a general method and a routine that is carried on, which show the better state of affairs in a farm or a good man's farm or a substantial man's farm; and for that matter, I have also been in service in Madras and I also know what takes place there. Perhaps, conditions there are far worse than conditions here. (*Hear, hear.*)

But the improvement of agriculture is as dear to our heart as it is to the members of the Government sitting here, and, in the interest of the ryot population that is dear both to the Government side and to the non-official side, every wasteful method of spending money here should be protected against. That is the reason why I have pressed this motion to a division, and I hope that this House will show how we stand with reference to this motion.

The President then read out the motion. When put to the House, it was lost.

Mr. A. B. SALEM (*Jews*).

I want a poll, Sir.

President.—Those who are in favour of the motion will please stand up.

Ayes.

1. Mr. M. K. Raman
2. Mr. Mathew Koladi Vatakkot
3. Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar
4. Mr. K. Sankaran Namburi
5. Mr. A. B. Salem
6. Mr. C. A. Ouseph
7. Mr. Alapat K. Thoman

8. Mr. K. S. Rama Ayyar
9. Mr. Paulo Mampilli
10. Mr. Lonappan Chakkola
11. Mr. George Chakyamuri
12. Mr. Chakko Cheruvathur

President.—Those who are against the motion will please stand up.

Noes.

1. Mr. V. K. Kochunni Menon
2. Mr. S. F. Nunez
3. Mr. M. Krishna Menon
4. Mr. C. Achyuta Menon
5. Mr. I. Raman Menon
6. Mr. K. Govinda Menon
7. Rao Sahib T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar
8. Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar
9. Mr. K. Krishna Pisharodi
10. Mr. A. Sankara Menon
11. Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon
12. Mr. C. Matthai
13. Sheik Abdul Qadir Sahib Bahadur
14. Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar
15. Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese
16. Dr. A. G. Menon
17. Mr. E. Ikkanda Wariar
18. Mr. K. P. Karuppan
19. Sy. T. Madhavi Amma
20. Mr. T. K. Krishna Menon

President.—The motion was lost; 12 for and 20 against it.

Mr. C. A. OUSEPH (*Chalakkudi*).

May I know whether the Secretary of this House and Mr. Karuppan are officials or non-officials?

President.—Mr. Karuppan is an independent member, neither an official nor a non-official.

Mr. C. A. OUSEPH (*Chalakkudi*).

The expressions "Official" or "Non-official" in relation to any person mean, respectively, he who is, or who is not, in the Civil or Military Service of our Government. I submit that both the Secretary and Mr. Karuppan are in the Civil Service of our Government, and therefore, they are officials. The distinction will become important in the course of the proceedings, hereafter. It is just now raised, because whether they are officials or non-officials will be necessary for the purpose of the report.

President.—Mr. M. K. Raman, do you press your motion on the Cocoanut Farm?

Mr. M. K. RAMAN (*Ezhuva South*).

No, Sir. It overlaps Mr. Salem's motion, and as his motion is lost, I do not wish to repeat the experiment.

The motion was therefore, by leave, withdrawn.

President.—We will come to the next motion, the allotment for Avenues.

Motion No. 12.

Dr. A. G. MENON (*Tattamangalam*).

To omit the allotment of Rs. 9,140 for Avenues.

Dr. A. G. MENON (*Tattamangalam*).

Sir, there is an item under the head "Avenue expenditure" and an allotment of Rs. 9,140. The budget shows an expenditure of Rs. 9,140, of which the establishment charges comes to Rs. 1,140; and Rs. 8,000 for other charges are put up. This last item was not clear to me when I sent the motion for a cut. The Superintendent of Agriculture and Panchayats explained to me that this Rs. 8,000, for planting trees, was necessary. So, I am satisfied. I do not press the motion for a cut in this direction.

Leave was given to withdraw the motion.

President.—The next motion is in the name of Mr. Mathew.

Motion Nos. 13 and 14.

Mr. MATHEW KOLADI VADAKKOT (*Kunnamkulam*).

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 93,922 for Agriculture and Avenues by Rs. 11,000.

Mr. M. K. RMAAN (*Ezhuva South*).

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 93,922 for Agriculture and Panchayats by Rs. 30,000.

Mr. MATHEW KOLADI VADAKKOT (*Kunnamkulam*).

Sir, I beg leave to move to reduce the allotment of Rs. 93,922 for Agriculture and Avenues by Rs. 13,000.

It is stated in the Census Report, 1921, that "The State (Cochin) is essentially an agricultural country, and the advancement of industries is more

or less bound up with the development of agriculture". "Agriculture is the mainstay of the people, and out of a total population of 9,79,080, this profession supports, whether as actual workers or dependents, 4,91,517 persons", that is, more than 50 per cent of the people. In view of these facts, spending money on improving agriculture in the State is highly necessary and undoubtedly worthy of support.

In the budget for the year 1101, the amount provided for agriculture alone is Rs. 84,852. When the total expenditure for the year budgetted is about 72 lakhs, the sum provided for the Agricultural Department may seem to be quite inadequate, as was remarked by the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Revenue Department. But I respectfully ask him whether he would vote for the sum budgetted now, for the maintenance of the present—I say the present—Agricultural Department to follow the method of work which it has been doing till now. What advantage has been derived from maintaining the department till now? I hesitate to say that the ryots have derived no substantial help or advantage from the department. Including the expenditure for Avenues, we have been for the last few years spending annually about a lakh of rupees for the Agricultural Department, and what has the department been able to do for the people? It recommended spraying for eradicating "*Mahali*" and cutting off of leaves for the cocoanut-pest. Spraying for eradicating "*Mahali*" was first recommended by the Agricultural experts in the Madras Presidency, and this information could have been obtained by spending one anna, or even less, half an anna, in those days, for a letter to be sent to the Madras Agricultural experts. In fact, before our Agricultural Department recommended spraying as a remedy, spraying had been adopted in British Malabar, and had even spread to Cochin territories. It was then that our Agricultural Department appeared on the arena. The member in charge of the Agricultural Department stated, yesterday, in the course of his reply that he had asked Mr. Panakkal Pathappan of Kunnankulam to do the needful for eradicating "*Mahali*" from our State. Does the Hon'ble Member deserve our congratulation for this? I say no. Mr. Panakkal Pathap-

pan, who rarely comes out of his palatial building, is not the person to be consulted. The Head of the Department should have joined hands with the ryots, who spend their time throughout the day in their fields, working hard, and who are depending for their maintenance on what they get from their fields. The member in charge of our Agricultural Department has not understood, I am sorry to say, whom he should take into his confidence and with whom he should join hands to improve agriculture in the State.

To the ryots in the State we must ask whether they have been benefited by the present Agricultural Department, and whether there is the likelihood of any improvement being made, if the present department is allowed to continue its present policy and method of work. One who asks such questions invariably gets from the ryot this answer:—"As it was in the beginning, it is so now, and it ever shall be." Ryots who have heard of the existence of our Agricultural Department are not many, and much less are those who have derived any material advantage from it. In these circumstances it is not desirable to follow the policy of Mr. (now Lord) Asquith—"wait and see". Instead of this policy we have to follow the policy of "ending or mending". In view of the assurance given by the Government, of appointing a Retrenchment Committee mainly, I believe, of non-officials, I suggest that it would be better to mend the department rather than ending it. The Hon'ble Member in charge of the department said that he would submit to a non-official enquiry. But it was pointed out by another Hon'ble Member of this House that the appointment of an enquiry committee would be tantamount to a vote of no-confidence. What the non-official members have in a united voice expressed in this House have really amounted to this. I would submit that it would be advisable to appoint a Committee of non-officials to advise the Superintendent of Agriculture, so that no public money may be wasted in future by undertaking or continuing ill-advised methods. The Committee would be able to advise how the department could be made useful to the ryots in the State and to bring about a reduction in the expenses of the department. My motion is only to reduce the allotment of Rs. 93,922

for Agriculture and Avenues by Rs. 13,000. If this motion be carried, I do not think the department will come to a stand-still, and I, therefore, respectfully request this House to pass this motion.

If the working of the department be improved within the next few months, and if the amount granted after the reduction proves insufficient, after rejecting all lavish and extravagant expenditure, the member in charge of the department can ask for a supplementary grant, and this House would only be willing to grant it. I, therefore, request the members of this House to pass this motion as a protest against what the department has been doing hitherto.

Mr. M. K. RAMAN (*Ezhuva South*).

I rise to support Mr. Mathew's proposition. I understand that this amount of Rs. 13,000 is to be deducted out of the total amount for Agriculture and Avenues together, that is to say, out of Rs. 93,922. That includes, therefore, Agriculture proper, Farm operations, Cattle-breeding, Maintenance of the Coconut Farm, Gardens, &c.

Whenever the word cocoanut station or cocoanut garden is mentioned, all the members of this House look up to me, as if I know something extraordinary about it. In view of the fact that I have obtained a certificate from the Agricultural Expert, I think this House has every reason to look up to me, since the certificate comes from such a good authority, who himself has read a number of his own certificates.

Now, what I beg to submit to this House is that this amount of Rs. 93,900 and odd which is allotted for the purpose is certainly too much. We understand, as stated by the Hon'ble Member, that he is prepared to take precautionary measures to reduce the expenditure. If, therefore, the expenditure on all these various items are reduced, there can be a total reduction of a considerable amount. If the whole amount of Rs. 13,000 cannot be reduced, I think a fair portion can be. It is said that the money spent for the purpose is a proper investment, but we have not sufficient funds for this investment, although it may be a paying concern in time to come. If the funds permitted, we could have made this profitable investment. But we

are already in difficulty, and we cannot advance such an amount. If we cannot make a cut of Rs. 13,000, I think at least five or six thousand rupees may be cut down out of the total amount.

President.—There is no motion as to that.

Mr. M. K. RAMAN (*Ezhuva South*).

In supporting the motion, I cannot say if it is not possible to make a total reduction of Rs. 13,000, at least a fair portion of it may be reduced.

President.—Is the motion possible?

Mr. C. ACHYUTA MENON (*Mulakunnattukavu*).

That will be an amendment of the motion.

Mr. M. K. RAMAN (*Ezhuva South*).

Then, I will propose to make an amendment upon the motion already brought forward by the Hon'ble Member.

Mr. C. ACHYUTA MENON (*Mulakunnattukavu*).

Not before the motion is seconded.

Mr. M. K. RAMAN (*Ezhuva South*).

So, then I propose to second this motion as it is, that is, the reduction of Rs. 13,000.

Mr. A. B. SALEM (*Jews*).

Sir, I rise to a point of order. It is only when a member objects that the amendment may be disallowed.

President.—What is your point of order? According to the Standing Orders, for all the amendments, notice must be given. That is the rule.

Mr. M. K. RAMAN (*Ezhuva South*).

I will remove the difficulty, Sir. I will presently point out to this House that a cut of Rs. 13,000 is possible. Originally, there were only 11 persons in the Office establishment. Now, this has been increased to 15. In the Field staff also, we find 18 increased to 22. So, there are altogether 8 persons added on to the establishment. Under our present strained circumstances, I do not think it desirable to increase the staff and thereby to increase the expenditure. Then, again, there is an item "Miscellaneous", of Rs. 1,560. I do not know what all things are included

in it. We find postage charges, service labels, purchase of books and everything provided for; and there is in the end Rs. 1,650 for Miscellaneous. This is a lump sum which could be cut down. A fair portion of the T. A. can also be cut down. T. A. comes to Rs. 2,200, which is an enormous sum. Then, coming to the next page, we find for 'Casual labour' Rs. 7,000.

President.—For the Farm?

Mr. M. K. RAMAN (*Ezhuva South*).

Sir, I do not know for what? The item "Casual labour—Rs. 7,000" is put down. Nothing is written here. That is certainly a very large amount. I do not know what this "Casual labour" means. Here also I find every item, such as purchase of cattle-food, seeds, &c., provided for; and the cattle-food alone would suffice for a large number of cattle. And implements too are provided for. And then, we find another item "Casual labour—Rs. 7,000". There is still another item down below, Rs. 2,00 for Miscellaneous. In all these a reduction is possible. Then, as to the 'Maintenance of gardens.' That has already been dealt with, and I do not want to waste the time of the House again on that. There is another item again besides "purchase of implements", that is, "repair of implements"—Rs. 500. I do not know if both are necessary. So, I submit that it is quite possible to make a cut of Rs. 13,000, and I heartily support the cut proposed by the Hon'ble Member, Mr. Mathew of Kunnamkulam.

Mr. S. S. KODER (*Mattancherri*).

Sir, One question. I find here "Purchase of seeds", "Purchase of implements", etc., Naturally, a ryot preserves paddy seeds. Why should he purchase seeds every year? Is it avenue seeds?

Mr. I. RAMAN MENON (*Superintendent of Agriculture and Panchayats*).

I will explain. The seeds that are produced in the Farm, are, of course, utilised for purposes of seeds in the Farm, and seeds, when produced, are credited to the Farm.

President.—Are not the northern and southern portions used for paddy cultivation?

Mr. I. RAMAN MENON (*Superintendent of Agriculture and Panchayats*).

Yes, Sir.

Mr. S. S. KODER (*Mattancheri*).

Implements are really necessary every year. They are sold ; but I could not understand the other item " Purchase of seeds ".

President.—So, you do not rise to say anything in connection with the motion. You wanted only information. Mr. Raman Menon, please explain it to the Hon'ble member.

Mr. I. RAMAN MENON (*Superintendent of Agriculture and Panchayats*).

The amount proposed to be reduced from the total amount for Agriculture and Avenues is Rs. 13,000. I have already explained the situation. I am afraid it is not possible to get on with the work of the department after any reduction in the expenditure now proposed.

President.—Already it has been sufficiently reduced.

Mr. A. B. SALEM (*Jews*).

Not reduced at all.

President.—Then, please explain what is "Casual labour"?

Mr. I. RAMAN MENON (*Superintendent of Agriculture and Panchayats*).

The Hon'ble Member for Ezhuvas said that he cannot understand for what purpose the amount of Rs. 7,000 is provided for "Casual labour". For Agriculture, we want implements, seeds, seedlings, and somebody to grow the plants for us, and for that we want to engage labour. It is for that purpose, we have put Rs. 7,000 for "Casual labour."

President.—How many coolies are employed, on an average, a day?

Mr. I. RAMAN MENON (*Superintendent of Agriculture and Panchayats*).

That depends upon the season and the nature of the work we have.

Mr. K. S. RAMA AYYAR (*Trippunittura*).

It comes to an average of 160 coolies a day. According to the rates of wages furnished by the Superintendent, it is found that he was paying 4 as. —the minimum.

Mr. C. ACHYUTA MENON (*Mulakunnattukavu*).

It may be eight annas and still more.

Mr. K. S. RAMA AYYAR (*Trippunittura*).

There is no limit to the maximum. The limit is only to the minimum. According to the estimate, of the minimum rate in the Farm, as given by the Superintendent yesterday, the cost of casual labour for the next year would work out to 160 coolies at 4 as. a day.

Mr. M. KRISHNA MENON (*Vyttila*).

Is it for the Farm alone?

President.—A larger number of coolies may have to be employed in certain seasons; at other times a lesser number might be enough. It all depends upon the quantity of work, the time of work, etc. But, we may have, on an average, to employ 160 coolies.

Mr. K. S. RAMA AYYAR (*Trippunittura*).

Whatever be the defence put forward, it is clear that the department is not able to convince the House that there is nothing wrong. As I said, the day before yesterday, I wanted to reserve my remarks. The time allowed is not enough. The department has to be taught so many things that they have not yet learned. There is nothing wrong in the House, in moving for cuts on the amount asked for by the Agricultural Department. I, therefore, support the cut of Rs. 13,000 on the allotment for Agriculture and Avenues.

Mr. T. A. RAMACHANDRA AYYAR (*Neilayi*).

The department is supposed to have a stock of seeds. We see here an item "Purchase of seeds —Rs. 2,000".

President.—Unless we purchase, how could we sell?

Mr. I. RAMA MENON (*Superintendent of Agriculture and Panchayats*).

We keep seeds. We are not purchasing seeds from outside.

President.—On the receipt side, probably, there is an item, income on account of seeds.

Many of the members objected that there was no such item.

President.—Page 3, Agriculture—"sale proceeds of grain and other produce". There is an estimate of Rs. 12,500. I draw your attention to that.

Mr. K. S. RAMA AYYAR (*Trippunittura*).

Item 5, Receipts on account of seeds. That clearly shows a sale of seeds is going on.

President.—It is blank this year.

Mr. I. RAMA MENON (*Superintendent of Agriculture and Panchayats*).

There is a separate Treasury account, "Agriculture Proper, No. 5, Receipts on account of seeds and manure depots". We had some years ago separate manure depots, where we kept seeds and manure for the ryots. The amount for the purchase of seeds and manure was met under allotment and from Departmental Heads. But afterwards, the amount required for seeds and manure was made from "Advances Repayable", so that there is no receipt to the department on account of seeds and manure depots.

President.—Under what head will it come?

Mr. I. RAMA MENON (*Superintendent of Agriculture and Panchayats*).

They are credited under Agriculture I (a).

President.—There is the absence of the seeds.

Mr. I. RAMA MENON (*Superintendent of Agriculture and Panchayats*).

We set apart the produce of the Farm for the purchase of seeds. At the close of the season, we credit the accounts at the rate we fix. At present there is no such receipt.

President.—The receipts side will have to be shown separate from the disbursements side. What you get by way of receipts will have to be shown separate as against disbursements.

Mr. A. B. SALEM (*Jews*).

Am I to understand that this Rs. 18,000 is really intended for the purchase of seeds from outside?

Mr. I. RAMAN MENON (*Superintendent of Agriculture and Panchayats*).

The department will get it from the Farm itself.

Mr. A. B. SALEM (*Jews*).

Is it to be used for paying seeds purchased from outside?

Mr. I. RAMAN MENON (*Superintendent of Agriculture and Panchayats*).

They are kept in the Farm. We do not purchase seeds from outside, and what we take from last year's seeds we pay to the department.

Mr. A. B. SALEM (*Jews*).

Are we to understand that the department buys and sells in the same department?

President.—It is for the purpose of account only that the amounts are put there.

Mr. M. K. RAMAN (*Ezhuva South*).

Page 90 of the budget—"Farm Operations", "Miscellaneous—Rs. 2,100". What is the use of this amount?

President.—Is it for the extension of the Garden or the extension of the Farm?

Mr. I. RAMAN MENON (*Superintendent of Agriculture and Panchayats*).

Several items come under "Miscellaneous", namely, maintenance of roads, repair of fences, boundary walls, purchase of vessels, clearing lands, etc. Then, the extension I proposed was for the construction of a cattle stock.

Mr. CHAKKO CHERUVATHUR (*Vadakkancheri*).

Sir, I rise to support the motion. "Sale proceeds of grain, etc." is Rs. 12,500. We shall take the whole amount to have been realised by the sale of paddy. The total amount of paddy raised, taken at the rate of 12 annas a para, is nearly 16,000 paras of paddy. We spend for this Rs. 2,000 in the shape of manure. For farm operations, there are 20 permanent servants. In addition to that, we shall grant 1,000 or 2,000 rupees. The balance we spend on paddy cultivation. Under "Cattle food" we find Rs. 8,500. We all know what the cattle would be able to eat.

President.—Do you know how many cattle there are in the Farm?

Mr. C. ACHYUTA MENON (*Mulakunnattukavu*).

It is about 200 or 300.

Mr. C. A. OUSEPH (*Chalakkudi*).

Is it between 200 and 300?

President.—I know it is a fact, for I have inspected the Farm.

Mr. CHAKKO CHERUVATHUR (*Vadakkancheri*).

The Farm itself produces manure. I do not think that Rs. 2,500 worth of manure is necessary for producing 16,000 paras of paddy.

Mr. A. B. SALEM (*Jews*).

Sir, I rise to support the motion. The extra expenses for establishment, as seen on page 18, is thus: For Rs. 2,973 we have been spending in 1099, we are going to allow the department, that has not worked properly in the past—as admitted on all accounts and on all sides of the House—Rs. 4,068. I submit that, in continuing this department with very great reluctance, the House should not allow them to spend any more, than what they have been spending in the past, during the trials of the coming year. Therefore, the difference between Rs. 4,068 and Rs. 2,973 is a luxury that may be cut. Then, Sir, coming to the "Field staff", in 1099 we see the Government had given the Agricultural Department Rs. 6,806 for Rs. 6,470 to be spent there this year. The excess may be cut. Under "Miscellaneous", from Rs. 600 in 1100 we have jumped to 1,650. There is a difference of Rs. 1,000 between last year and this year, and this may be cut down.

RAO SAHIB T. V. KASTURI RANGA AYYAR (*Diwan Peishkar*).

But the actual "Miscellaneous" comes to Rs. 2,170. Now, we are here to check this difference.

Mr. A. B. SALEM (*Jews*).

Coming to the "Farm Operations", Sir, from 9,853 in 1100 and 8,630 in 1099 we have jumped to 11,630. I submit, the capital expenditure should be now yielding something, and so economy as well as receipts should have gone to cover this expenditure under that item. So, there is a room for a cut there. We must adopt a policy of not being liberal to the department in the coming year. Even though we are reluctant to grant any additional amount at the outset,

we should be willing to give it a supplementary grant of Rs. 20,000 or 30,000 at the end of the year, if they do good work.

RAO SAHIB T. V. KASTURI RANGA AYYAR (*Diwan Peishkar*).

So far as this big amount is concerned, the increase for 1101 is due to periodical increments, leave allowances, etc.

Mr. A. B. SALEM (*Jews*).

Periodical increments can be stopped. Let them not be given increments every year. Even the Land Revenue Member has remarked that the ryot's position has not changed recently. The Agricultural Department has done nothing to the ryots. They have been experimenting for their own benefits. We should not be very liberal this year. If they do good work this year, we will be liberal next year. Now, we find a head "Cattle-breeding—Rs. 200". I do not know what the expenditure under "Cattle-breeding" is exactly for?

Mr. I. RAMAN MENON (*Superintendent of Agriculture and Panchayats*).

That is for giving grants to the poor people.

Mr. A. B. SALEM (*Jews*).

These are the main items, Sir, and in view of all that has been said in this House, I strongly support this motion for a lump reduction, so that they might learn a lesson to do better in the coming year and come to us for supplementary grants, if it is not sufficient.

Dr. A. G. MENON (*Tattamangalam*).

"Grants in-aid to Ayurvedic dispensaries" is put under Agriculture. I do not know how it comes under Agriculture. It is not put under Panchayats.

President.—It should come under Panchayats.

RAO SAHIB T. V. KASTURI RANGA AYYAR
(*Diwan Peishkar*).

It is included under Demand II A. It ought to come under C. So it increases the expenditure in the Agricultural Department.

Mr. I. RAMAN MENON (*Superintendent of Agriculture and Panchayats*).

It may be eliminated and put in the proper place.

Mr. N. PADMANABHA MENON (*Cranganur*).

Sir, I now propose the motion be put to the vote.

Mr. C. A. OUSEPH (*Chalakkudi*).

I second it.

The motion was put to votes, and it was carried by a large majority.

President.—Mr. Mathew, you may now exercise your right of reply.

Mr. MATHEW KOLADI VADAKKOT (*Kunnamkulam*).

I have not heard many arguments against the motion which I had submitted to the House. My motion is for reducing Rs. 13,000. One of my objects in moving this motion is to enable Government to carry on the department, the next year, very economically. The second object of my motion is to protest against the extravagant waste of money involved in the administration of the department till now. I would draw the attention of the House to these figures:—"Casual labour—Rs. 7,000" and again, "Miscellaneous—Rs. 2,100." I think, if proper economy is adopted with regard to such items, expenditure may be reduced. So, even if this motion be carried, I do not think the department will come to a stand-still. After making all retrenchments, if the member asks for a supplementary grant, we will surely be glad to grant it. I, therefore, press this motion to a division.

The President, then, read the motion and put it to votes. The motion was lost by 12 against 19.

Ayes.

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|-----|-----|-------------------------|
| 1. | Mr. | Mathew Koladi Vadakkot |
| 2. | " | M. K. Raman |
| 3. | " | T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar |
| 4. | " | C. A. Ouseph |
| 5. | " | A. B. Salem |
| 6. | " | Alapat K. Thoman |
| 7. | " | K. S. Rama Ayyar |
| 8. | " | Lonappan Chakkola |
| 9. | " | O. R. Chummar |
| 10. | " | George Chakyamuri |
| 11. | " | A. Eachara Menon |
| 12. | " | Chakko Cheruvathur |

Noes.

- | | | |
|----|-----|---------------------|
| 1. | Mr. | S. F. Nunez |
| 2. | " | K. Sankaran Namburi |

3. Mr. Mr. M. Krishna Menon
4. „ K. Krishna Pisharodi
5. „ A. K. Vengu Ayyar
6. Rao Sahib T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar
7. Mr. K. Govinda Menon
8. „ I. Raman Menon
9. „ C. Achyuta Menon
10. Sy. T. Madhavi Amma
11. Mr. A. Sankara Menon
12. „ V. K. Aravindaksha Menon
13. „ C. Matthai
14. Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese
15. Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar
16. „ Sheik Abdul Qadir Sahib Bahadur
17. Mr. E. Ikkanda Wariar
18. „ K. P. Karuppan
19. „ T. K. Krishna Menon

President—The next motion stands in the name of Mr. Salem.

Motion No. 15.

Mr. A. B. SALEM (*Jews*).

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 7,200 for Establishment under Contribution to Village Panchayats by one rupee.

Mr. A. B. SALEM (*Jews*).

I have said the Agricultural Department has got in the coming year strenuous work, if that department is to be useful to the country at large. After great difficulty, this House has consented to give them the money; and it should not be spent without immediate supervision, and the immediate attention of the Agricultural Superintendent should be drawn in directions of agricultural improvement and to all matters connected with the development of agriculture. The art of Agriculture and the connected industries will be sufficient to tax the attention of one hand, however clever he might be, for a good amount of his time every day.

Under such circumstances, to club Agriculture and Panchayats together means absolute detriment to the interests of both. If you burden a single officer with too much work, and that, particularly, when he is found fault with by the House, I am sure that would not be giving him an opportunity of showing what he is in his particular department. Therefore, I suppose that this ought to be kept in view by the authorities

concerned. And the administration of Panchayats, as it legitimately must be, comes under the Land Revenue Department. (*Hear. Hear.*) The Panchayats are the coming units of Self-Government, and they should know their functions thoroughly, and for this we look to the Revenue Department to teach them that. We look to the Revenue Department that comes in contact with them to advise them in all matters. It is the Revenue Department that prepares the Electoral Rolls. As we heard from one of the members, it is the Parvathia-karans that come in touch with the Panchayats more than the Agricultural Department. The Inspector is far away; and he comes once or twice in a year, and if he comes more than twice, the travelling allowance will increase, and we will grumble against that. It is the Tahsildars, working in the different parts of the country, that are the proper officers to control Panchayats. It is for this purpose and for the principal and harmonious development of the Panchayats under the Revenue Department that I brought forward this motion.

Sir, this amalgamation of the Panchayat and Agricultural Departments took place only in the course of the last 3 years. It is perhaps two, or one and a half years. There was no reason for this amalgamation, which has resulted in the condemnation of the Agricultural Department in this House. The expenditure that has been sanctioned for the Panchayats will not be spent well, unless there is some sort of supervision. The Panchayat members are expected to be in constant touch with Revenue authorities, more than that of the Agricultural Department. If any needs of theirs arise, the Superintendent of Agriculture will be there, but he may not be able to come in contact with them always. I have brought this motion to call the attention of the House to the incongruity of clubbing Panchayats, which is an administrative unit, with that of Agriculture, which is a developing part of the activities of the State. Development of Panchayats is more administrative, so that Government should be linked with it rather than with a department which ought to come under scientific development. Therefore, I submit to the House to carry this motion, if they are satisfied with the principle that this department should come

under Land Revenue than remain under Agriculture.

Dr. A. G. MENON (*Tattamangalam*).

Sir,

The revival of this ancient institution of Village Panchayats is one of the most valued *boons* conferred on the people of Cochin by the Retired Maharaja, His Highness Sir Sri Rama Varma, G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., on the occasion of His Highness' Shashtiabdapurti, in Dhanu 1088.

Till the end of 1096, this department was managed by the Revenue authorities, when, practically, the system had been extended all over the rural areas of this State.

In the end of 1096, during the time of Diwan Mr. Vijayaraghava Chari, the Government thought it expedient and wise to appoint a full-timed, separate officer to manage the department, as it had become difficult for the Revenue Department to cope with the additional work of that department. So a separate department was created, a full-timed officer, the Registrar of Village Panchayats, was appointed with effect from the 1st of Karkadagam 1096. Before this new policy of the Government, thus implanted, had had sufficient time to produce its results—within the course of one year—the administration changed hands.

Within a couple of months of the advent of the late Diwan, this department was amalgamated with the Agricultural Department. Thereby the policy laid down by the Government of Diwan Mr. Vijayaraghava Chari was entirely reversed.

The combination of two such departments, as that of Agriculture and Panchayats, was a most unhappy one; one is a general administrative department, which required, for its development on sound lines, the supervision of an officer of liberal, democratic sentiments and cultural attainments, while the other department required one of scientific training of a technical character.

I do not mean to say, Sir, that the present head of the Panchayat Department is an officer devoid of the qualifications necessary to manage the Panchayat

Department. But being an expert in the agricultural line, he should not have been made to divert his attention and energies to any other direction. By this, his own department, Agriculture, has been made to suffer consequently, very considerably. The root cause of the unsatisfactory working of the Agricultural Department, which evoked so much criticism in this House during the budget discussion, is, in my view, in a large measure, due to the clubbing of these two departments. This has resulted in the unsatisfactory working of both the departments.

If our Agricultural Department alone is put in the hands of Mr. I. Rama Menon, the Expert, he would be in a position to pay his undivided attention to his own department and show more satisfactory results. If the Government would have the Panchayats developing on sound lines, so that this institution may become a *real boon* to the people and not remain as merely a paper department, this Panchayat Department also must be put under a full-timed officer.

I may venture to state here that we are already reaping the disastrous fruits of the reversal of the policy of Mr. Vijayaraghava Chari's Government. What are they? It is admitted in this House, that the Agricultural Department did not move in time, in the matter of preventing the spread of the cocoanut-pest, which has practically affected large tracts in the Cochin-Kanayannur Taluk. The same is the case with the Panchayat Department. I understand that there are several Panchayats and Panchayat Courts, which have ceased functioning for months together. I am open to correction, Sir, if I am wrong.

In conclusion, Sir, I emphatically assert, it is impossible for one officer, however capable he may be, to do full justice to his duties in the management of these two departments.

Mr. I. RAMAN MENON (*Superintendent of Agriculture and Panchayats*).

There is one Court, and they are not doing Court work, and they are put to troubles.

President.—What is your suggestion?

Dr. A. G. MENON (*Tattamangalam*).

Not to club it with any other department. It must be kept separate. It is the unit of Self-Govern

ment to the people ; and I strongly support the proposition.

RAO SAHIB T. V. KASTURI RANGA AYYAR (*Diwan Peishkar*).

Mr. President, Sir,

The Panchayats were placed under the supervision of the Superintendent of Agriculture in the last month of 1927, and the reasons that weighed with Government for taking that course have been expressed in the following terms in the G. O. on the subject in July 1922 :—

"Eleven months ago a full-timed Registrar of Village Panchayats was appointed on the same salary as the Agricultural Superintendent. It has since been found that the supervision of Panchayat work does not give sufficient work for a full-timed officer. Of the functions devolving on them, two of the most important ones, from the point of view of the rural population, are improvement of agriculture and maintenance of minor irrigation works. In the opinion of Government, the proper officer to advise ryots on these matters is the Superintendent of Agriculture, while, as regards the other functions, the Superintendent will be found as good as any other officer trained in the Revenue Department. Again, the frequent visits to villages and mixing with the Panchayatdars will be of decided advantage to the Superintendent to diffuse his technical agricultural knowledge among them. For these reasons Government are pleased to combine the two appointments under the designation of "Superintendent of Agriculture and Panchayats" and to raise the maximum pay of the appointment by Rs. 100 per mensem."

The House will thus see that the transfer of the Panchayats to the control of the Superintendent of Agriculture was only an experimental measure. The transfer was effected purely as a tentative measure, with the main object of disseminating agricultural knowledge through the agency of the Panchayats. It has been represented by the non-official members of this House that no propaganda work was done by the Agricultural Department in the matter of introducing new and improved methods of agriculture, and that no useful instruction was given by the de-

partment to the ryots. As the Agricultural Department has to do propaganda work to give instructions to the ryots, it was thought that the officers of that department could utilise the agency of Panchayatdars for the purpose, as these bodies have to come in contact with the ryots. It was with this object in view that the Panchayat and Agricultural Departments were clubbed together. Since it is represented that the clubbing had given no benefit to the Panchayats, Government are prepared to look into the matter, and take all the representations now made into consideration and arrive at some satisfactory conclusion.

On the assurance given by the Diwan Peishkar, Mr. Salem did not press his motion. The motion was therefore, by leave, withdrawn.

President.—As the lunch time is nearing, we will adjourn the remaining motions to Monday. After three o'clock, we will take up the resolutions standing in the name of Mr. M. K. Raman and Mr. Rama Ayyar. We will now rise.

Mr. C. ACHYUTAMENON (*Mulakunnattukavu*).

We have received the programme till Thursday.

President.—Then we will know what amount of business we are able to get through by that time. After consulting the convenience of the Hon'ble Members, I may have to close the session or adjourn it after one or two days more. Next Monday we will be able to know something about it.

After lunch the Council reassembled at 3 p.m.

Resolutions on matters of General Public Interest.

President.—We shall now proceed with the resolution standing in the name of Mr. M. K. Raman:—

"This Council is of opinion that the present scheme of introducing meters for the water pipes leading into private houses in Ernakulam Town is highly detrimental to the economic as well as sanitary conditions of the inhabitants of the town, and it strongly recommends to our Government for the immediate withdrawal of the same".

Mr. M. K. RAMAN (*Ezhuva South*).

Sir,

Before proceeding, I should like to explain the situation to the House, so that the Hon'ble Members from